



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
444 North 3rd Street, Suite 270
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone (916) 323-9983
Fax (916) 323-9999
www.rcb.ca.gov



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Inquiry: Please send me information and regulations concerning the following topics: (1) IV access (2) establishing venous access - heplock (3) phlebotomy draws (CBC, Chem panel, etc.). My questions revolve around the legality of RTs performing these functions along with training and certifications involved. Specifically: (A) Can an RT perform the above with their license? (B) What medications can an RT administer, if any? (C) What training and compliance is necessary for certification?

Response: Regarding IV access; establishing venous access - heplock; and phlebotomy draws, please be advised that this is not verbatim from the Respiratory Care Practice Act (RCPA) but, in the RCB's judgement, is highly inferred and allowed.

Regarding the medications an RT can administer, the RCPA authorizes a licensed respiratory care practitioner to administer pharmacologic agents related to the practice of respiratory care and/or in accordance with a respiratory care protocol, as defined.

Regarding the training and compliance necessary for certification, please be advised that any additional training and compliance standards necessary to perform any authorized function performed within an organized health care system provided under the RCPA are established by the organized health care system. Likewise, the additional training and compliance standards necessary to perform functions under a respiratory care protocol within an organized health care system are established by the organized health care system.

Reference # 2001-C-01